THERE IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of providing the preferential facility of obtaining particular calls between users manner by reserving circuit segments for some users of a communication network in the event that said particular calls are established via at least two switching nodes of said network, in the context of a network constituted so that each call requested by a user via a terminal is set up via a circuit for connecting said terminal to the terminal of a called user, said circuits comprising one circuit segment or a plurality of circuit segments connected in series, when said call is set up via a plurality of switching nodes of said network, each segment being selected from available circuit segments on a trunk between two switching nodes so that a circuit is set up enabling the calling user and the called user to communicate, which method includes the following operations:

   - permanently reserving at least one circuit segment on each trunk between nodes needed to set up circuits for each of said particular calls between users for which a preferred user attribute has been granted to at least one particular user of the two users concerned, and

   - dynamically allocating circuit segments selected from said reserved segments and needed to set up a circuit from said terminal of one user who has a preferred user attribute for particular calls in the event of a call set-up request by one of said users in respect of a call for which he has been granted a preferred user attribute.

2. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein a referred user attribute is assigned to each user and corresponds to a particular category indication in the case of preferred users included in the calling user identifier that is transmitted for setting up a circuit at the time of a call request.

3. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein minimum-cost algorithm used to choose a circuit at the time of a call request gives priority to choosing the shortest circuit set up via one or more reserved circuit segments in series when the request emanates from a user who has a preferred user attribute relating to the call requested and uses an unreserved circuit segment of a trunk if no reserved segments of said trunk are available and said trunk has at least one unreserved segment available at the time.

4. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein processing capabilities of the network are used for all users in the event of saturation of a trunk concerning a call for

which a user has a preferred user attribute.

5.	A communication network including switching nodes with point-to-point connections provided by trunks enabling users to communicate who have communication terminals each individually connected to one of said nodes, each call being obtained by means of a circuit set up between the nodes of users connected by a circuit segment in each trunk used, which communication network includes hardware and/or software for implementing a method of providing the preferential facility of obtaining particular calls between users manner by reserving circuit segments for some users of a communication network in the event that said particular calls are established via at least two switching nodes of said network, in the context of a network constituted so that each call requested by a user via a terminal is set up via a circuit for connecting said terminal to the terminal of a called user, said circuits comprising one circuit segment or a plurality of circuit segments connected in series, when said call is set up via a plurality of switching nodes of said network, each segment being selected from available circuit segments on a trunk between two switching nodes so that a circuit is set up enabling the calling user and the called user to communicate, which method includes the following operations:

- permanently reserving at least one circuit segment on each trunk between nodes needed to set up circuits for each of said particular calls between users for which a preferred user attribute has been granted to at least one particular user of the two users concerned, and

- dynamically allocating circuit segments selected from said reserved segments and needed to set up a circuit from said terminal of one user who has a preferred user attribute for particular calls in the event of a call set-up request by one of said users in respect of a call for which he has been granted a preferred user attribute.

6.	The network claimed in claim 5 wherein a referred user attribute is assigned to each user and corresponds to a particular category indication in the case of preferred users included in the calling user identifier that is transmitted for setting up a circuit at the time of a call request.

7.	The network claimed in claim 5 wherein minimum-cost algorithm used to choose a circuit at the time of a call request gives priority to choosing the shortest circuit set up via one or more reserved circuit segments in series when the request emanates from a user who has a preferred user attribute relating to

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the call requested and uses an unreserved circuit segment of a trunk if no reserved segments of said trunk are available and said trunk has at least one unreserved segment available at the time.

8. The network claimed in claim 5 wherein processing capabilities of the network are used for all users in the event of saturation of a trunk concerning a call for which a user has a preferred user attribute.